

REMARKS

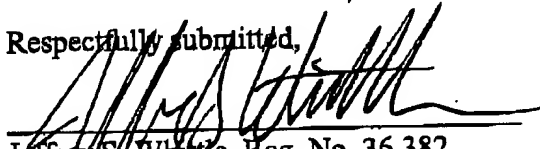
Support for the revised Claims 1, 8, 9, and 10 can be found on page 5, lines 20-27 through page 6, lines 1-26. Applicant amends independent Claims 1, 8, 9, and 10 without prejudice to more clearly define Applicant's invention. Applicant also amends dependent Claims 2-3, 5-7 without prejudice to more particularly point out particular aspects of Applicant's invention described in Claim 1.

The amendment is pursuant to a telephone interview between Applicant's attorneys and the Examiner on January 21, 2003 in which (1) Applicant's attorneys pointed out that the 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) rejection was improper for the fact that a portion of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) rejection found in the last subparagraph of Examiner's paragraph 2, was based on obviousness arguments which are of no consequence under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a); (2) Applicant's attorneys confirmed that the Examiner received a copy of a proposed amendment to Claim 9 without prejudice, that was being suggested for the sole purpose of advancing the prosecution of the case; (3) the Examiner stated that the proposed amendment to Claim 9 was patentable over the cited art, but was subject to further examination; and (4) the Examiner indicated that amendments to the claims that substantially adhere to the proposed claim discussed in the telephonic interview would, subject to a finding of new art, place Applicant's application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicant amends independent Claims 1, 8, 9, and 10 to substantially represent the elements of the proposed amendment discussed during the 1-21-03 Telephonic Interview, without prejudice, and for the sole purpose of advancing the prosecution of the case. Applicant notes for the record, that the amendments are without prejudice because Briesch '908 does not anticipate Applicant's invention, for among other reasons, the fact that Briesch does not teach the use of two gas turbines acting in parallel to and producing steam for a steam turbine, and Briesch does not even mention the use of an aeroderivative turbine being one of the two gas turbines producing steam for powering the steam turbine.

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing Amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1-3, 5-10 are allowable, and Applicant respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A**MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES**

1. (Twice Amended) A system for producing alternating current electric energy comprising:

at least two turbines that are mechanically separate but electrically connected, said at least two turbines comprising:

(a) [at least one] an industrial gas turbine type for producing electric power and having a first exhaust outlet; [and]

(b) [at least one] an aeroderivative gas turbine type for producing electric power and having a second outlet, the aeroderivative gas turbine type having a shorter start up time than the industrial gas turbine type;

(c) at least one electric generator powered by at least one said industrial gas turbine type or said aeroderivative gas turbine type;

(d) at least one heat recovery steam generator positioned to receive exhaust gases from the first outlet of the industrial gas turbine type and to receive exhaust gases from the second exhaust outlet of the aeroderivative gas turbine type; and

(e) a steam turbine positioned to receive steam produced from said at least one heat recovery steam generator to thereby drive the steam turbine, the steam turbine being driven during start-up operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from the aeroderivative gas turbine type, being driven during low demand operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from the industrial gas turbine type, and being driven during high demand operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from both the industrial gas turbine type and the aeroderivative gas turbine type.

2. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 1, [further including at least one steam turbine, said steam turbine in thermodynamic communication with at least one of said industrial gas turbine type or aeroderivative gas turbine type such that the exhaust heat from the turbine is used by the steam turbine to generate electric power] wherein said at least one electric generator

further comprises a first electric generator powered by the industrial gas turbine type, and a second electric generator powered by the aeroderivative gas turbine type.

3. (Twice Amended) The system of claim [2, further including at least one heat recovery steam generator in thermodynamic communication with at least one said industrial gas turbine type or aeroderivative gas turbine type for providing steam to said at least one steam turbine] 1, wherein said at least one heat recovery steam generator further comprises a first heat recovery steam generator positioned to receive exhaust gases from the first outlet of the industrial gas turbine type and a second heat recovery steam generator positioned to receive exhaust gases from the second exhaust outlet of the aeroderivative gas turbine type, and wherein the steam turbine is positioned to selectively receive steam from the first and the second heat recovery steam generators.

4. (Previously Cancelled by Applicant in Applicant's 1-7-02 Amendment and Response to 9-13-01 Office Action)

5. (Thrice Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said aeroderivative gas turbine type is [used to produce electricity until said industrial gas turbine type is producing adequate electrical output, at which time the aeroderivative gas turbine type is] shut down during low demand operations when the steam turbine is being driven by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from the industrial gas turbine type.

6. (Thrice Amended) The system of claim 3, [1, further comprising one or more HRSGs in thermodynamic communication with said aeroderivative gas turbine type,] wherein during low demand operations the aeroderivative gas turbine type is left on-line and is used to keep [said one or more HRSGs] the second heat recovery steam generator in a state of hot stand by for enhanced system start/stop cycling duty capabilities.

7. (Thrice Amended) The system of claim 3, [5, wherein the aeroderivative gas turbine type is left online and used to generate electricity when additional electrical output is required] wherein the steam turbine is being driven during start-up operations by the second heat

recovery steam generator, is being driven during low demand operations by the first heat recovery steam generator, and is being driven during high demand operations by the first and the second heat recovery steam generators.

8. (Twice Amended) A system for producing alternating current electric energy comprising:

(a) [at least one] an industrial gas turbine type for producing electric power and having a first exhaust outlet;

(b) [at least one] an aeroderivative gas turbine type for producing electric power and having a second outlet, the aeroderivative gas turbine type having a shorter start up time than the industrial gas turbine type;

(c) at least one electric generator powered by at least one said industrial gas turbine type or said aeroderivative gas turbine type;

(d) at least one heat recovery steam generator positioned to receive exhaust gases from the first outlet of the industrial gas turbine type and to receive exhaust gases from the second exhaust outlet of the aeroderivative gas turbine type;

(e) a steam turbine positioned to receive steam produced from said at least one heat recovery steam generator to thereby drive the steam turbine, the steam turbine being driven during start-up operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from the aeroderivative gas turbine type, being driven during low demand operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from the industrial gas turbine type, and being driven during high demand operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from both the industrial gas turbine type and the aeroderivative gas turbine type;

[(c) at least one steam turbine, said steam turbine in thermodynamic communication with at least one of said industrial gas turbine type or aeroderivative gas turbine type such that the exhaust heat from the turbine is used by the steam turbine to generate electric power;

(d) a heat recovery steam generator with supplementary firing equipment associated with each industrial gas turbine type and aeroderivative gas turbine type for providing high temperature, high pressure steam to said at least one steam turbine;]

~~[(e)](f)~~ a fuel system for providing fuel to the industrial gas turbine type, aeroderivative gas turbine type and heat recovery steam generators; and

~~[(f)](g)~~ a water system for providing a suitable water supply to the steam turbines and the heat recovery steam generators.

9. (Twice Amended) A system for producing alternating current electrical energy comprising:

(a) [at least one] an industrial gas turbine type for producing electric power and having a first exhaust outlet; [and]

(b) [at least one] an aeroderivative gas turbine type for producing electric power and having a second exhaust outlet, the aeroderivative gas turbine type having a shorter start up time than the industrial gas turbine type; [and]

(c) at least one electric generator powered by at least one said industrial gas turbine type or said aeroderivative gas turbine type;

(d) at least one heat recovery steam generator positioned to receive exhaust gases from the first outlet of the industrial gas turbine type and to receive exhaust gases from the second exhaust outlet of the aeroderivative gas turbine type; and

(e) a steam turbine positioned to receive steam produced from said at least one heat recovery steam generator to thereby drive the steam turbine, the steam turbine being driven during start-up operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from the aeroderivative gas turbine type, being driven during low demand operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from the industrial gas turbine type, and being driven during high demand operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from both the industrial gas turbine type and the aeroderivative gas turbine type.

10. (Twice Amended) A system for producing alternating current electric energy comprising:

(a) [at least one] an industrial gas turbine type for producing electric power;

(b) [at least one] an aeroderivative gas turbine type for producing electric power and having a second exhaust outlet, the aeroderivative gas turbine type having a shorter start up time than the industrial gas turbine type;

(c) at least one electric generator powered by at least one said industrial gas turbine type or said aeroderivative gas turbine type;

(d) at least one heat recovery steam generator positioned to receive exhaust gases from the first outlet of the industrial gas turbine type and to receive exhaust gases from the second exhaust outlet of the aeroderivative gas turbine type;

(e) a steam turbine positioned to receive steam produced from said at least one heat recovery steam generator to thereby drive the steam turbine, the steam turbine being driven during start-up operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from the aeroderivative gas turbine type, being driven during low demand operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from the industrial gas turbine type, and being driven during high demand operations by said at least one heat recovery steam generator receiving exhaust gases from both the industrial gas turbine type and the aeroderivative gas turbine type;

[(c) at least one steam turbine, said steam turbine in thermodynamic communication with at least one of said industrial gas turbine type or aeroderivative gas turbine type such that the exhaust heat from the turbine is used by the steam turbine to generate electric power;

(d) a heat recovery steam generator with supplementary firing equipment associated with each industrial gas turbine type and aeroderivative gas turbine type for providing high temperature, high pressure steam to said at least one steam turbine;]

[(e)](f) a fuel system for providing fuel to the industrial gas turbine type, aeroderivative gas turbine type and heat recovery steam generators;

[(f)](g) a water system for providing a suitable water supply to the steam turbines and the heat recovery steam generators;

[(g)](h)at least one electric generator powered by said steam turbine.

- 11. (Withdrawn from consideration by Examiner in April 17, 2002 Office Action)**